

NEWS RELEASE

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FIRE RESTRICTIONS REMAIN IN EFFECT

Cooler temperatures and higher humidity have reduced the number of large wildland fires in Utah, yet firefighters continue to deal with numerous fires on a daily basis. Wildland fire managers are reminding us that statewide fire restrictions are still in effect.

“We don’t want the lack of large fire activity to lull people into a sense of security and thinking that it’s now okay to return to business as usual,” said State Forester Joel Frandsen. “While we’ve been very lucky that no new major fires have developed the situation throughout most of the state remains extreme.”

All unincorporated state, federal and private lands remain covered by either a Stage I or Stage II fire restriction order. Essentially, all open fires of any kind are prohibited, even in improved campgrounds. Also prohibited is smoking, except within an enclosed vehicle or building, a developed recreation site, or while stopped in an area at least three feet in diameter that is barren or cleared to mineral soil. Fireworks and other pyrotechnic devices are also prohibited.

A Stage II restriction is still in effect for Garfield, Iron, Kane, and Washington counties, and Beaver County west of I-15. This prohibits the use of a chainsaw or motorized equipment, blasting, welding or other activities that generate flame, or operating a motorized vehicle off designated roads and trails between the hours of 1:00 p.m. and 1:00 a.m. daily.

It is strongly urged that anyone planning backcountry visits contact local offices of the USDA Forest Service, Bureau of Land Management, or the Utah Division of Forestry, Fire and State Lands for restrictions that may apply in specific areas.

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